

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction force on the guide bar in the second direction, the stage having a center of gravity substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, the plane parallel to the first and second directions having the center of gravity of the guide bar substantially positioned therein; and

an actuator component positioned on the guide bar substantially in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage.

Claim 2 (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the center of gravity of the stage and the center of gravity of the guide bar are aligned with each other in the second direction and the actuator component applies a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

Claim 3 (original) The stage assembly of claim 2, wherein the actuator component is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

Claim 4 (original) The stage assembly of claim 2, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claim 5 (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the center of gravity of the stage and the center of the gravity of the guide bar are spaced apart from each other in the first direction and the guide assembly further includes another actuator component positioned substantially in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the guide bar in the second direction to apply a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

Claim 6 (original) The stage assembly of claim 5, wherein the actuator component is positioned on one side of the guide bar and the another actuator component is positioned on the other side of the guide bar.

Claim 7 (original) The stage assembly of claim 6, wherein each of the actuator component and the another actuator component is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

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Claim 8 (original) The stage assembly of claim 6, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claim 9 (original) The stage assembly of claim 5, wherein the actuator component and the other actuator component are positioned on one side of the guide bar.

Claim 10 (original) The stage assembly of claim 9, wherein each of the actuator component and the another actuator component is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

Claim 11 (original) The stage assembly of claim 9, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claim 12 (currently amended) An exposure apparatus including ~~the stage assembly of claim 1.~~ comprising:

an illumination system configured to irradiate radiant energy; and

a stage assembly configured to carry an object on a path of the radiant energy,

the stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a

center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction force on the guide bar in the second direction, the stage having a center of gravity substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, the plane parallel to the first and second directions having the center of gravity of the guide bar substantially positioned therein; and

an actuator component positioned on the guide bar substantially in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (original) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction

force on the guide bar, the stage having a center of gravity spaced apart from the center of gravity of the guide bar in the first direction;

a first actuator component positioned on the guide bar and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage; and

a second actuator component positioned on the guide bar and aligned with the center of gravity of the guide bar in the second direction to apply a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

Claim 15 (original) The stage assembly of claim 14, wherein the first actuator component is positioned on one side of the guide bar and the second actuator component is positioned on the other side of the guide bar.

Claim 16 (original) The stage assembly of claim 15, wherein each of the first and second actuator components is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

Claim 17 (original) The stage assembly of claim 15, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claim 18 (original) The stage assembly of claim 14, wherein the first and second actuator components are positioned on one side of the guide bar.

Claim 19 (original) The stage assembly of claim 18, wherein each of the first and second actuator components is a pair of E cores spaced apart from each other in the second direction.

Claim 20 (original) The stage assembly of claim 18, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claim 21 (currently amended) An exposure apparatus including ~~the stage assembly of claim 14.~~ comprising:

an illumination system configured to irradiate radiant energy; and

a stage assembly configured to carry an object on a path of the radiant energy,

the stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a guide bar movable in a first direction, the guide bar having a center of gravity and a guiding portion;

a stage movable along the guiding portion of the guide bar in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction and exerting a reaction force on the guide bar, the stage having a center of gravity spaced apart from the center of gravity of the guide bar in the first direction;

a first actuator component positioned on the guide bar and aligned with the center of gravity of the stage in the second direction to apply a compensating force on the guide bar to cancel the reaction force exerted by the stage; and

a second actuator component positioned on the guide bar and aligned with the center of gravity of the guide bar in the second direction to apply a force on the guide bar to control a position of the guide bar in the second direction.

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (original) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a first moving member movable in a first direction, the first moving member having a center of gravity;

a second moving member movable in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the second moving member having a center of gravity substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, the plane parallel to the first and second directions having the center of gravity of the first moving member substantially positioned therein; and

an actuator, at least part of the actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the actuator generating a force acting on the first moving

member in the second direction, wherein a portion where the force acts on the first moving member is substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction.

Claim 24 (original) The stage assembly of claim 23, wherein:

the actuator, the force acting on the first moving member, and the portion where the force acts on the first moving member are, respectively, a first actuator, a first force, and a first portion;

the center of gravity of the first moving member and the center of gravity of the second moving member are spaced apart from each other in the first direction; and

the guide assembly further comprises a second actuator, at least part of the second actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the second actuator generating a second force acting on the first moving member in the second direction, wherein a second portion where the second force acts on the first moving member is substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claim 25 (original) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a first moving member movable in a first direction, the first moving member having a center of gravity;

a second moving member movable in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the second moving member having a center of gravity spaced apart from the center of gravity of the first moving member in the first direction;

a first actuator, at least part of the first actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the first actuator generating a first force acting on the first moving member in the second direction, wherein a first portion where the first force acts on the first moving member is substantially aligned with the center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction; and

a second actuator, at least part of the second actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the second actuator generating a second force acting on the first moving member in the second direction, wherein a second portion where the second force acts on the first moving member is substantially aligned with the center of gravity of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claim 26 (original) A method for driving a stage assembly comprising a first moving member and a second moving member, the method comprising the steps of:

driving the first moving member in a first direction;

driving the second moving member in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction; and

applying a force on the first moving member at a portion in the second direction,

wherein a center of gravity of the first moving member and a center of gravity of the second moving member are substantially positioned in a plane parallel to the first and second directions, and

wherein the portion is substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction.

Claim 27 (original) The method of claim 26, wherein:

the force applied on the first moving member and the portion are, respectively, a first force and a first portion;

the center of gravity of the first moving member and the center of gravity of the second moving member are spaced apart from each other in the first direction; and

the method further comprises the step of applying a second force on the first moving member at a second portion in the second direction, the second portion being substantially positioned in the plane parallel to the first and second directions and aligned with the center of gravity of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claim 28 (original) A method for driving a stage assembly comprising a first moving member and a second moving member, the method comprising the steps of:

driving the first moving member in a first direction;

driving the second moving member in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction;

applying a first force on the first moving member at a first portion in the second direction to cancel a reaction force exerted by the second moving member; and
applying a second force on the first moving member at a second portion in the second direction to control a position of the first moving member in the second direction, wherein the first portion is aligned with a center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction, and the second portion is aligned with a center of gravity of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claim 29 (previously presented) A stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a first moving member movable in a first direction, the first moving member having a center of gravity;

a second moving member movable in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the second moving member having a center of gravity and exerting a reaction force on the first moving member in the second direction; and

an actuator, at least part of the actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the actuator generating a force acting on the first moving member in the second direction, wherein a portion where the force acts on the first moving member is substantially aligned with the center of gravity of the second moving member in the second direction.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The stage assembly of claim 29, wherein the center of gravity of the first moving member and the center of gravity of the second moving member are aligned with each other in the second direction and the actuator applies a force on the first moving member to control a position of the first moving member in the second direction.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The stage assembly of claim 30, comprising a pair of the guide assemblies spaced apart from each other in the first direction.

Claim 32 (currently amended) An exposure apparatus comprising:

an illumination system configured to irradiate radiant energy; and

~~the stage assembly of claim 29, the~~ a stage assembly being configured to carry an object on a path of the radiant energy, the stage assembly comprising:

a guide assembly including:

a first moving member movable in a first direction, the first moving member having a center of gravity;

a second moving member movable in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction, the second moving

member having a center of gravity and exerting a reaction force on the

first moving member in the second direction; and

an actuator, at least part of the actuator being positioned on the first moving member, the actuator generating a force acting on the first moving

member in the second direction, wherein a portion where the force acts on
the first moving member is substantially aligned with the center of gravity
of the second moving member in the second direction.

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